

# the chronicle

## Pupils on song

Choir in good voice to spread Christmas cheer

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Rolling out history of the 'forgotten' carpet town

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## Crunch game

Luke Jones to face his old club for Harriers

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## Store is target in dramatic ram raid

COMPUTER games and DVDs were part of a haul taken in a ram raid in Stourport.

Thieves used a white Peugeot Boxer dropside lorry to smash their way through a window at Blockbuster in Stourport High Street.

Two men wearing dark clothing then took wheelie bins inside the store to load them up with games and DVDs.

Only one of the bins was taken from the scene and the raiders drove off the wrong way down the High Street – a one-way street – towards Arley Kings.

The raid happened in the early hours of Tuesday.

More than 100 computer games were later recovered dumped at Larford Lane, Astley, about two miles from Stourport. It is believed the thieves sorted through the stolen goods before transferring to another vehicle.

They abandoned the truck in Pearl Lane, about half a mile from Larford Lane. It had been stolen from Shirley, Solihull.

Pc Lee Wycherley, who is investigating, said: "We will be carrying out house-to-house inquiries and we would like to hear from anyone who may have seen any part of the incident."

He can be contacted on 0300 333 3000, quoting 32-S-201211.

## Blue badge fee to rise

DRIVERS applying for a disabled blue badge in Wyre Forest will be faced with fee increase from January 1.

The rise will see cost of badges go from £2 to £10 and they will no longer be handed out on the day of application.

People applying will need to allow up to two weeks for postage.

Worcestershire County Council bosses say it is the first time in almost 30 years they have had to put up prices.

# RAILWAY ON TRACK FOR RECORD YEAR

**MORE than 200,000 people have ridden on the Severn Valley Railway this year – and bosses say they are on track for their best Christmas ever.**

The railway chiefs say they have sold more than 30,000 seats for their special Santa-themed trips in the run-up to Christmas.

The event has been a sell-out this year with all the places on the pre-Christmas luncheon and dining trains, as well as the Christmas carol trains being booked.

It is the first time officials at the steam heritage line, from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth, can remember that happening.

David Mee, Severn Valley Railway's services manager, said: "We haven't hit figures like these at any previous Christmas this century – and probably for a very long time before that."

"It's usually the case that our first Santa trains in early December are slow to sell."

### Nostalgic

"The last ones in the late afternoons generally have a few spare seats."

"But this year every single seat was snapped up – for the last three weeks, we've had no tickets left to sell – it's been amazing."

Mr Mee said the statistics simply reinforced their belief in two things.

"Firstly, when it comes to seeing Santa, nothing can compete with the nostalgic atmosphere of a live steam

**By Helen Cartwright**

train to take you there." He added: "And secondly, even when the chips are down and family budgets are tightly stretched, people will sacrifice many things – but not their children's enjoyment at Christmas."

Bosses at the railway attraction say they have already beaten their planned passenger figure of 205,000 for the year.

And they say with the planned eight days of festive trains planned between Boxing Day and January 2, the final figure could exceed 213,000.

The steam trains start their journeys from Bridgnorth at 10.10am where people can just turn up, although there are discounts for booking ahead.

## Pupils turn litter into glitter



Councillor Marcus Hart with Erin Nicholls and Amelia and Georgia Bennett, from St Mary's CE Primary School

PUPILS in the Wyre Forest area have been thinking green – with a touch of sparkle.

They have been taking part in Wyre Forest District Council's "From Litter to Glitter" competition.

Schools decorated Christmas trees, created nativity scenes, made door wreaths and other creations from recycled material for the annual competition, which helps children to become more aware of the alternatives to throwing something away.

There were ingenious uses of CDs, bottles, plastic bags and toilet roll

tubes which were all turned into Christmas decorations.

St. Mary's Primary School was this year's winner. The school received membership to the Worcestershire Resource Exchange (WRE) in Worcester for a year and vouchers to spend there. The prize was donated by R&S Recycling.

Councillor Marcus Hart said: "The competition is a wonderful way for the children to become more aware of what they throw away. Every class at St. Mary's contributed something to the competition. This included a wreath

made from old fabric and plastic bags and a nativity scene made from recycled materials."

Stourport Primary was runner-up and third place went to Burlish Park Primary.

The top individual prize went to Ben Onions of Burlish Park Primary, for creating a reindeer from an old toilet roll tube and twigs. He won a family ticket for the Severn Valley Railway.

For more information on recycling visit the council's website [www.wyre-forest.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.wyre-forest.gov.uk/recycling)

## Paramedic on a 999 call is hurt in pile-up

A PARAMEDIC on her way to an emergency call was involved in a crash with another vehicle in Kidderminster.

The paramedic, a woman, had to be freed from her vehicle by firefighters after the dramatic collision.

Fortunately she suffered only minor injuries in the crash. It happened at the junction of Comberton Road and Chester Road North, at 5pm on Tuesday.

The rapid response vehicle the woman was driving is believed to have been on blue lights and sirens at the time of the collision.

It was on its way to a medical incident at a house in the area when it was involved in the smash.

Another ambulance was already on its way to the same incident, and that crew was able to deal with the situation.

The injured woman was treated at the scene by other paramedics and then taken to Worcester Royal Hospital for further assessment and treatment.

No-one else was injured in the collision.

Police officers had to close off part of the carriageway while the injured woman was freed and treated.

A spokesman for the West Midlands Ambulance Service said an investigation into the cause of the smash had been launched.

## Revamped pub opens

A PUB in Kidderminster has reopened after a £190,000 revamp.

The Red Man in Blackwell Street was given the facelift by owners Punch Taverns.

Manager Chris Irving said: "The pub looks amazing. We're still getting our music fans come in but we're getting a lot of families now as well as older couples."

A number of rooms have been opened up and the dining area is in the new-looking conservatory.



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# Make time for lonely old folk, charity urges

MANY elderly people in Worcestershire face a lonely Christmas and New Year, says research which shows that younger people are often too busy for older relatives.

The Friends of the Elderly charity say that nationally, 500,000 older people are spending Christmas alone this year. In the poll of 2,000 adults aged 16-65, nearly one in four admitted they won't be including any elderly people in their celebrations.

When asked what prevented them from visiting the elderly, 44 per cent said that they did not have enough time.

Nearly a quarter said they "never got round to it" and a further 13 per cent said they simply did not want to.

## Shopping

Just 13 per cent say they would consider having a lonely older person that would otherwise spend Christmas Day alone share the day with them, despite 68 per cent of people saying the worst thing they could imagine at Christmas would be to be alone.

Even though 43 per cent of people say they find interacting with the elderly enjoyable, more people would rather volunteer with animals (28 per cent) than the elderly (26 per cent).

When asked what they felt the meaning of Christmas was, 60 per cent of people said they believed spending

quality time with family and friends to be the true meaning of Christmas.

However, more people cited it as a time for shopping (nine per cent) than as a time to help others (just one per cent).

Isolation puts older people at risk, according to Richard Furze, CEO of Friends of the Elderly. He said: "Isolation can be devastating. 'And isolated people are less likely to obtain the services they need or seek help.'"

The charity is urging people to keep an eye on elderly relatives and neighbours, and not just at Christmas. Mr Furze said: "Small things such as checking in on an older neighbour, popping a card through their door or having a chat at the shops is enjoyable, only takes a moment and can make a real difference."

Log on to the Friends of the Elderly website at [www.fote.org.uk/xmas](http://www.fote.org.uk/xmas) for details on how to help the elderly through telephone befriending, home visiting or by donating.

## Regulars boost good causes



Landlord Rob Hallard with regulars at the Rising Sun

CUSTOMERS at a Wyre Forest pub have raised cash to give two good causes a boost in the run-up to Christmas.

Regulars at the Rising Sun, in Lombard Street, Stourport, raised money through raffles at their weekly bingo nights.

The cash raised goes into a bank account and is donated to charities at the end of the year.

A total of £1,000 has been raised by the generous regulars in 2011.

The money will be split between Kidderminster Hospital's Millbrook cancer unit and the Elizabeth Mills Day Centre in Stourport.

Representatives from the hospital and day centre visited the pub to be presented with the funds.

People who play bingo at the pub contribute to the raffle by each donating a small prize.

Licensee Rob Hallard said: "There are a lot of hard-working people who organise these raffle events during the year."

"We are absolutely delighted that this sum has been raised."

thechronicle

## Police in alert to shoppers

POLICE have issued a warning to last-minute shoppers in Kidderminster - don't let your Christmas gifts end up in the wrong hands.

The advice is part of the West Mercia force's annual campaign which encourages the public to follow tips to reduce their chances of becoming a victim over the holidays.

Detective Superintendent Mark Travis said: "You need to be mindful that thieves are active at this time of year. Make sure your handbags and purses are securely fastened to you. Keep your purse in an inside coat pocket, and never leave your bags unattended."

Cars are popular targets. Although there was a seven per cent drop in vehicle crime in Worcestershire from April 1 2011, to September 30, over the same period last year, nearly 3,400 people had their cars broken into in the West Mercia area in the six-month period this year.

Det Supt Travis said: "Don't give criminals a Christmas present."

## Reward for pup

A FAMILY from Kidderminster are offering a reward for their lost puppy, a red boxer, which went missing on December 15 from Worcester Road, Harvington.

Anyone with any information should call 01562 777651 or 07710 374297.

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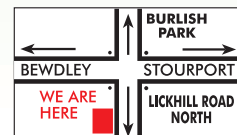
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# Thousands living with the fear of losing their homes

**MORE** than a quarter of people in Kidderminster and the West Midlands generally fear losing their homes because of the economic downturn.

A survey on behalf of the homelessness charity Crisis has found that 28 per cent of people are living with that concern. Nationally, the figure is 25 per cent.

Another 26 per cent think that in the next few months they could get into difficulties with their rent or mortgage payments in the next few months.

Already, nine per cent say they are struggling with payments.

Government homelessness statistics also just released revealed that 2,280 people were accepted in the West Midlands as homeless and in "priority need" for accommodation in the most recent quarter.

## Emergency

Under the law most single homeless people do not have a right to accommodation and a report by the Local Government Ombudsman found that councils sometimes do not give single homeless people the help they need.

Nationally, nearly three quarters of people nationally said they would support a change in the law to force councils to provide emergency accommodation for single homeless people.

Most people in the survey said if they were homeless they should be able to get short-term emergency accommodation and help to find somewhere more permanent to stay from their council.

Statistics from the Department of Communities and Local Government show that nationally, six per cent more people were found to be unintentionally homeless and in priority need than during the same quarter in 2010.

This is the third quarterly rise and reflects a prediction from Crisis that the economic downturn would leave more people facing the threat of homelessness.

Crisis chief executive Leslie Morphy said: "With over a quarter of people in the West Midlands worried about losing their homes, evidence that the system is not working for single homeless people strikes home."

"Now is the time for ministers to change the law so single homeless people get the help they need."



Burlish Park Primary School pupils Chloe Davies, left, and Jessica McPhee with Joan and Geoff Neale during a trip to the Elizabeth Mills Centre, New Street

## Choir is on song at centre

PUPILS spread some festive cheer when they visited a day centre for older people in Stourport to sing Christmas carols.

The Elizabeth Mills Centre, formerly known as the Stourport Social Day Centre, welcomed youngsters from Burlish Park Primary School's choir.

A variety of festive tunes were sung, including a rendition of I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas by soloists Jessica McPhee and Chloe Davies.

Burlish headteacher Janet Bickerton said: "The children really loved performing their wonderful music with the community."

"They enjoyed the warm welcome and appreciation they received from the day care visitors."

The school's musical provision was recognised in a recent outstanding Ofsted report.



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# Choir in good voice to triumph again



Staff from Thursfield Solicitors, who won the Last Choir Standing competition for the second successive year

SOLICITORS from Kidderminster hit the right notes to win the title of Last Choir Standing 2011 in an annual charity competition.

Held in aid of KEMP Hospice, the event took place at Kidderminster Town Hall and raised more than £1,400 for the Mason Road-based charity. Thursfield Solicitors took the trophy for the second year running. The impressed judges included Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier.

Other competitors included a team from KEMP Hospice, The Old Village Store in Wolverley, The Vocalettes, Elmfield Community Choir and The University of the Third Age.

Ele Millward, community fundraiser at KEMP, said: "There is a lot of talent in our community. The choirs' performances showed how much time, they had invested."

The £1,400 raised will enable the hospice to continue caring for people with life-limiting illnesses.

# Looking east to recycle

PEOPLE in the Wyre Forest area are being urged to look eastwards to try a new system to dispose of their household waste.

Worcestershire County Council wants to cut down on the amount of waste produced by households.

Bosses are suggesting a system called bokashi which, they say, is ideal for people with small gardens because it can be performed indoors.

Bokashi, Japanese for "fermented organic matter" is a composting system that can be done in a kitchen

using specially-designed buckets.

They work by using fermentation. You put food scraps in the bucket, sprinkle the bokashi material over it and seal the lid.

After two to three weeks, the resulting liquid can be diluted and used as plant fertiliser.

Councillor Anthony Blagg, cabinet member with responsibility for waste and environment said: "This is a brilliant idea because a significant proportion of what is ending up in landfill comes from organic waste."

Christopher Atkinson, senior waste prevention officer, said: "The bokashi system enables organic waste like vegetable peelings, teabags, and other food scraps and leftovers, and also meat, to be recycled without using an outdoor compost bin."

Bokashi buckets are available from bubble house worms at [www.bubblehouseworms.com](http://www.bubblehouseworms.com) or wiggly wigglers at [www.wigglywigglers.co.uk](http://www.wigglywigglers.co.uk)

They are available with other composting systems at [www.hw.getcomposting.com](http://www.hw.getcomposting.com)

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## Put your dog on road to stardom

DOG lovers in Worcestershire have a chance to make their pet a star.

British Waterways is searching for a "canal-loving canine" to front a marketing campaign for the Canal and River Trust which takes over British Waterways' responsibility for 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales in April 2012.

The competition closes on December 31, and people are being asked to take a picture of their pooch near a canal or river in the area.

Nick Worthington, British Waterways manager for the region, said: "This is a fun opportunity for people and their dogs to get involved in a new marketing campaign."

The competition photo page is available at [www.flickr.com/groups/canal\\_dogwalker/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/canal_dogwalker/).

# Parents urged to go online to apply for school places

**PARENTS with children due to start school in Kidderminster in September 2012 still have time to apply for the school of their choice. The deadline is January 15.**

Education bosses are reminding parents of the official application process that must be followed.

And this year, more parents than ever are choosing to use Worcestershire County Council's online application process at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions).

### Official

Spokesman Clive Evans said: "Not all parents realise there is an official application process."

"Parents can make up to three school choices but must get their applications in on time."

"Every year some parents

fail to submit an application and are then surprised when they are not offered the school they would like their child to go to."

He said the process was as straightforward as possible.

Applicants were sent an acknowledgement, usually on the same day their application was received, and changes could be made right up to the last minute on the closing day.

He added that online applications were quicker and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Taking the plunge are, left to right, Jack Crompton, Luke Mitchell and Stephen Nock

## Trio get in the swim to aid charity funds

THREE lifeguards are to swim the length of the English Channel – at the Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre pool.

Stephen Nock, Jack Crompton and Luke Mitchell will tomorrow (Friday, December 23) each swim 715 widths in aid of leukaemia and lymphoma research.

To help, go to <http://www.justgiving.com/LukeMitchell-StephenNock-JackCrompton>

## Tills are jingling a bit less this year

PEOPLE are cutting back on Christmas celebrations this year, according to a survey.

Just over 40 per cent of people said they were spending less this year.

Some 23 per cent of Kidderminster residents thought that you don't need money to have a good Christmas.

They said playing parlour games, making presents and going for walks were ways of saving money and having a good time.

But the survey from PCH-prizes.co.uk, found that 41 per cent of people thought that having money helped make Christmas special.

Women are most likely to spend less are while people aged 18-24 are more likely to overspend. And 11 per cent of people in Kidderminster said they were not looking forward to Christmas at all.

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## thechronicle

## LETTERS

# Congratulations, Mr Cameron

I must congratulate Mr Cameron for his veto to any changes to the European Treaty. This must be the greatest decision of his premiership to date.

That this veto was used primarily to protect the status of the City of London as the financial investment capital of the world is highly commendable.

It is absurd for French President Sarkozy to state that this financial advantage in investments is robbing the rest of Europe. With this sort of reasoning it means that any specialisms – Germany with engineering, France with wine and cheese – should

not be allowed and should be distributed evenly across the EU.

The fact that doing so would destroy a country's economy would be inconsequential to the EU. Abiding by the rules seems more important to the EU than economic results.

After Mr Cameron's veto it seems that changes will still be made to the EU treaty. This begs the question as to why a vote was arranged if the result of the vote was ignored.

The fact that threats of isolation has been issued against the UK by the bureaucrats destroys the EU's claim to

democratic principles.

It is quite apparent that the only thing holding the EU together is the power of politicians who seem to be the only people to benefit. Perhaps the lure of the gravy train might in some way have something to do with it.

Anyway three cheers to David Cameron – and to earn his next accolade would he please kick out that complete liability, Clegg.

**IVAN BATE,**  
Halifax Court,  
Wilton Avenue,  
Kidderminster.

## Our taxes are sent blowing in the wind

THANKS to green initiatives domestic power bills will rocket by 25 per cent. Being good Europeans we are the only fools to commit to a reduction in carbon emissions of 30 per cent.

To achieve this outrageously "Huhne-atic" target the Government has decided on yet another punitive stealth tax on our bills.

This is to cover the country with wind turbines that don't work when the wind doesn't blow.

And as we witnessed last week when one exploded in a ball of flames they don't work when the wind does blow.

The only thing they do make rich landowners who get paid for erecting them on their land a damn site richer at your expense.

**GLEN WILSON,**  
UKIP,  
Stourbridge.

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Kidderminster Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53  
Queen Street, Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

[kidderminsterchronicle@  
expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:kidderminsterchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk)

## Dog owner's actions spoil pleasant walk

FOR the past six months a friend of mine has enjoyed walking her male puppy over a nearby common.

But the walks have recently been spoiled by the thoughtless actions of another dog walker. Someone has persisted in walking their bitch, which is in season, off the lead on the common. My friend has been asked to "call her dog" who is being a "nuisance" to this owner's bitch.

It is irresponsible to walk a bitch which is in season, off the lead in a public place where other male dogs are exercised. Do they not know that male dogs can detect the scent of a bitch in heat over long distances? It is not only unfair to any male dogs, it is also unfair to the bitch and could result in an unwanted pregnancy.

I am sure most dog owners would not dream of walking a bitch off the lead while it is in season but one inconsiderate owner can spoil it for the majority.

**JACKIE WORTON,**  
Snowberry Drive  
Pensnett,  
Brierley Hill.

## Road idea will lead to gridlock

SO Henry Carver of Wolverhampton Business Group wants to end bus lanes in Willenhall Road and Stafford Street in Wolverhampton?

Won't this encourage more cars in the city and create even more gridlock, make public transport less reliable and make the city a less attractive place to visit? An interesting plan to improve business, that.

**PHIL TONKS,**  
Stourbridge.

## Waste of cash

TALKING to bus drivers at Stourbridge about our new bus station – it's too small and Birmingham buses will not be able to use it. There is only way in and out. All we needed was to have new shelters, not all the money that is being spent on it.

**MISS S J ROBERTS,**  
Caslon Crescent,  
Norton,  
Stourbridge.

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Members of the staff of the Carpet Manufacturing Co at the factory in 1953



The Southwell carpet factory in Bridgnorth



Workers from the factory on a trip on Foxall's Coaches back in the 1950s



The team producing Queen Victoria's carpet in 1897

## Rolling out history at the other carpet town

Kidderminster is rightly famous as the local carpet manufacturing town – but it is not the only one.

Bridgnorth used to have a huge carpet factory, J & W Southwell Ltd, right on the banks of the River Severn, dominating the northern side.

Joseph Southwell first started his carpet enterprise in 1809, operating from a former Franciscan monastery in the appropriately named Friar's Lane.

Bridgnorth had many hand-loom weavers and Southwell built his first factory, also in Friar's Lane, leasing hand looms to local weavers.

Joseph joined with his brother to form Joseph and William Southwell



by Alec Brew

in 1828, weaving "Kidderminster" carpets. The factory was expanded steadily along the banks of the Severn. The river was vital both for transport and as a water supply.

In 1855, 22 Brussels powerlooms were installed and expansion continued until in 1890 there were 75 Brussels looms and 20 Royal Axminster looms.

Hand looms were still in evidence, and for her Diamond Jubilee in 1897 Queen Victoria was presented with a carpet which was produced for her by a team of Southwell's hand loom weavers. By

the 1930s the factory occupied a huge frontage on the river, and the company was one of the largest employers in the town.

But in 1944 it was sold to the Carpet Manufacturing Company.

In the 1970s the carpet industry had fierce competition from abroad and in 1971, rationalisation began within the company. Departments were closed, and ironically a "Bridgnorth" shed was opened in the company's Kidderminster works.

The writing was on the wall, and in 1977 the factory closed. The site is now used for housing.

Kidderminster and Bridgnorth are linked by the famous Severn Valley Railway, but they are also linked also by this shared heritage of carpet weaving.



Staff weaving Axminster carpets inside Southwell's back in 1912



A team of workers in the design department pictured in 1912

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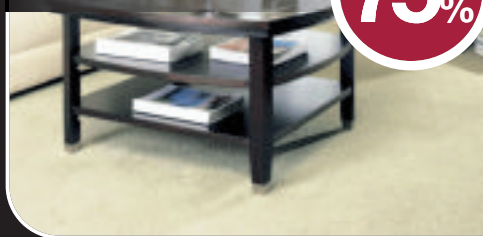
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**Popping back after 10 years**

POP Will Eat Itself (PWEI) is coming to The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton in March.

Following reunion tours from fellow Stourbridge bands Ned's Atomic Dustbin and The Wonder Stuff, 2005 saw the Poppies back on patrol for the first time in nearly a decade.

In 2011 the band reformed again, with a new line-up that includes original band member Graham Crabb and co-vocalist Mary Byker from fellow grebos Gaye Bykers on Acid.

**The show will be on Christina heads for the Academy**

SINCE the release of her radio smash single, Jar of Hearts, Christina Perri has sold more than 100,000 of her debut album, Lovestrong.

She has now announced her first ever UK headline tour, which includes a Birmingham date when she appears at Academy 2 on January 20.

Her current single, A Thousand Years features on the Breaking Dawn - Part 1 Soundtrack and her next single, Arms will be released early next year.

**Don't Panic**

US rock band Panic! At The Disco are back in January for a UK headline tour following the release of their third LP Vices and Virtues earlier this year. They will be appearing at the O2 Arena on January 29.

# Ballet, music and laughs set for theatre's busy year

## Chicago and all that jazz blows in

MURDER, greed, corruption, exploitation, adultery and treachery... all those things we hold near and dear to our hearts... so begins the international award-winning musical Chicago.

And it will be coming to Birmingham next year starring Ali Bastian as Roxie Hart, Stefan Booth as Billy Flynn, Tupele Dorgu as Velma Kelly and Bernie Nolan as Mama Morton.

Based on real life events back in the roaring 1920s, nightclub singer Roxie Hart shoots her lover and along with Cell Block rival, double-murderess Velma Kelly, they fight to keep from death row with the help of smooth talking lawyer, Billy Flynn.

Created by the musical theatre talents of John Kander, Fred Ebb and legendary choreographer Bob Fosse, Chicago's sexy, sassy score includes All That Jazz and Razzle Dazzle.

Bastian is a regular fixture on British television screens, having played the long-running roles of Becca in Hollyoaks and Sally Armstrong in The Bill. In 2009 she reached the semi-finals of BBC's Strictly Come Dancing.

The show will be at the New Alexandra Theatre, from March 5 to 10.

**BIRMINGHAM Hippodrome is looking ahead to one of its busiest 12 months ever with the announcement of a host of productions with a multitude of world-class shows.**

## Classic rock to get you stomping

A VIRTUOSO band of some of the finest musicians perform an amazing mix of selected tracks from the 10 best-selling rock albums of all time, plus a special anthem-by-anthem climax to a show at Birmingham Town Hall on January 12.

Featuring highlights from, The Eagles - Greatest Hits, Led Zeppelin - IV, Fleetwood Mac - Rumours, Dire Straits - Brothers In Arms, Pink Floyd - Dark Side of the Moon & The Wall, Elton John - Goodbye Yellow Brick Road, Bruce Springsteen - Born to Run, AC/DC - Back In Black and Meat Loaf - Bat out of Hell, plus encore songs from Jimi Hendrix, Lynyrd Skynyrd and The Who.

The 150 minutes of classic rock's best moments guarantee soar throats.

New productions include the Birmingham debut of Cape Town Opera with the Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, in the 75th anniversary of the composer's death; the West End production of Sister Act co-produced by Whoopi Goldberg; the return of Irish stand-up Dara O Briain; comedian Kevin Bridges, who makes his first visit to the Hippodrome; the much loved musical Blood Brothers; and the new 2012/13 pantomime, Robinson Crusoe and the Caribbean Pirates!

Further 2012 highlights include a final date for Calendar Girls; the 20th anniversary tour of Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker!; Cameron Mackintosh's production of the Lionel Bart classic, Oliver! with Neil Morrissey and Brian Conley sharing the starring role of Fagin; a half-term family treat Stomp; the new musical I Dreamed a Dream featuring Susan Boyle and the world premiere of Faster, Higher, Stronger a one-act ballet by Birmingham Royal Ballet artistic director David Bintley.

## Reviews



Linda Lusardi who stars as the Queen of Mean in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at The Grand

### Snow White, Grand Theatre

SHE'S back and she certainly is the queen of panto. Linda Lusardi is not new to the city but she just gets better and better. She may have been the Queen of Mean in the Grand Theatre pantomime Snow White but she certainly gave her all with her performance.

She literally ruled the stage and was an absolute treat, especially for the dads when she stripped down to her undies.

The whole production was delightful. The Grumbleweeds brought a wealth of humour for all ages. Yes, we may have heard some of the jokes before but their delivery was superb.

There was some criticism over the use of children instead of paying for midgets as the dwarves but the costumes were good and it worked well, although there was a lot of arm flapping from the kids, which did get a bit irritating after a while.

The panto teamed Linda up with her husband Sam Kane as the Prince and Eloise Irving as Snow White, who had a lovely voice but looked more like Alice in Wonderland when she first appeared on stage rather than the young Snow White. Niki Evans as Fairy Lorelei also had a lovely voice and good stage presence. And as expected, the costumes and scenery were very well done and all in all a superb production. Oh, yes it is!

SUE ATTWATER

### The Complete Beatles, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock

THE MUSIC of the Beatles will always live on, but in the absence of the real thing, it needs an authentic tribute band to recreate the sounds and harmonies of the Fab Four.

The Complete Beatles did just that. To my mind, a Beatles tribute needs a left-handed Paul to be truly authentic, and these did. The band had the voices and the mannerisms of to a tee and from the opening number I Saw Her Standing There, it was clear these were no fake artists.

Nowhere Man and This Boy were particularly well delivered, while the whole crowd was invited to join with Hey Jude.

Hit after hit followed and there were album tracks as well as cameos from 'Ringo' in the form of Act Naturally and With A Little Help From My Friends.

George's contribution songwise was restricted to rock 'n' roll numbers including Roll Over Beethoven - and, despite being on stage for around two hours, there were still so many songs that could have been included in the set list.

It was, however, a must for all Beatles fans.

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# Christmas Eve



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**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Nativity. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.15** Nigel Slater's Simple Christmas. (R) **12.15** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.30** Keeping Up Appearances. (R) **1.30** Film: The Santa Clause 2. (2002) Disney comedy adventure sequel, starring Tim Allen. **3.05** Film: G-Force. (2009) Premiere. Children's adventure, starring Bill Nighy. **4.30** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **4.50** Winter Wipeout Christmas Special. **5.50** Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. (2005) Fantasy adventure, starring Tilda Swinton.

**8.00** Merlin. Part two of two. Camelot has fallen to Morgana, leaving Arthur a broken man, and Merlin realises only an extraordinary act will restore his master's faith. Last in the series.

**8.45** EastEnders. Masood and Zainab try to stop Yusef's plan.

**9.20** Outnumbered. The Brockmans plan to escape the festivities to spend Christmas in the sun – but Grandad ends up in hospital, Karen gets toothache and Ben develops a fascination with knives.

**10.00** Lapland. Festive comedy drama, starring Sue Johnston.

**11.15** The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws.

**11.25** BBC News; Weather.

**11.45** Midnight Mass from St George's Cathedral Southwark. Led by Archbishop Peter Smith; National Lottery Update.

**12.55** Film: At First Sight. (1999) Romantic drama, starring Val Kilmer and Mira Sorvino. **2.55** Weatherview. **3.00** BBC News.

**6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.50** Film: Jump In! (2007) Drama, starring Corbin Bleu. **10.10** Film: Bicentennial Man. (1999) Sci-fi drama, with Robin Williams. **12.10** Film: Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco. (1996) Animal adventure sequel, with the voice of Michael J Fox. **1.35** Pappano's Essential Tosca. **2.35** Tosca from the Royal Opera House. **4.45** Christmas University Challenge. **5.15** Dad's Army. (R) **5.45** Carols from King's.



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**7.00** The John Craven Years. Documentary charting the TV presenter's career, which has spanned 40 years. Featuring interviews with Jon Culshaw, Noel Edmonds and Martin Bell.

**8.00** Morecambe and Wise. Memorable moments from the comedy duo's Christmas shows. (R)

**9.00** The Many Faces of Les Dawson. Profile of the Manchester-born comedian.

**10.00** The Best of Les Dawson. Tribute to the comedian. (R)

**10.25** Top of the Pops 2: Christmas Special. (R)

**11.55** Blackadder Rides Again. (R)

**12.55** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) **1.25** Film: Holiday in Handcuffs. (2007) Romantic comedy, starring Melissa Joan Hart and Mario Lopez. **2.50** Close.

**6.00** CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.15** Film: Tom and Jerry: The Magic Ring. (2002) Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Jeff Bennett. **9.25** Film: Santa Claus: The Movie. (1985) Family fantasy adventure, with Dudley Moore. **11.30** Coronation Street. **1.25** ITV News; Weather. **1.45** Film: The Polar Express. (2004) Animated adventure, with the voice of Tom Hanks. **3.35** Film: ET: The Extra-Terrestrial. (1982) Sci-fi fantasy, with Henry Thomas. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

**6.00** You've Been Framed! Christmas Special. Festive foul-ups. (R)

**6.30** The Cube Celebrity Special. With Coronation Street stars Ryan Thomas and Julie Hesmondhalgh.

**7.30** Text Santa. Part two of two. The charity initiative concludes.

**10.00** Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Donny Osmond. The singer talks about his life and career.



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**11.00** ITV News; Weather. **11.15** Carols from Bucklebury.

**12.15** Film: Connie and Carla. (2004) Two women flee after witnessing a murder and plan to lie low by posing as drag queens on the Los Angeles gay scene. Comedy, starring Toni Collette and Nia Vardalos; ITV News Headlines. **2.10** Film: Spartacus. (1960) Roman epic, with Kirk Douglas. **5.20** ITV Nightscreen.

**7.15** Film: Garfield. (2004) Family comedy, with the voice of Bill Murray. **8.45** Olive, the Other Reindeer. (R) **9.40** Prep & Landing. (R) **10.10** Film: Charlotte's Web. (2006) Family drama, with the voice of Julia Roberts. **12.00** Film: The Muppet Christmas Carol. (1992) Comedy, with Michael Caine and Steven Mackintosh alongside the puppet characters. **1.40** Gordon's Christmas Cookalong – Get Ready. (R) **1.50** Jamie's Christmas with Bells On. (R) **2.55** Jamie's Christmas with Bells On. (R) **4.00** Deal or No Deal: Deal Panto. **5.00** Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) **5.30** Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R)

**6.00** Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R)

**6.30** Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R)

**7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.05** 4thought.tv.



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**7.15** FILM: Hairspray. (2007) **9.20** Home for the Holidays. **10.55** Bill Bailey: Dandelion Mind. **11.55** Father Ted Christmas Special. (R)

**1.05** Music on 4: Inputoutput. (R) **1.15** Comedy Lab: Kabaddases. **1.45** Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows – T4 Movie Special. (R) **2.00** Cee Lo Takes the UK: Christmas with All the Goodies. (R) **2.10** Film: Ashes of Time Redux. (1994) Wong Kar-Wai's drama, starring Leslie Cheung. **3.45** Southland. **4.30** World War II: The Last Heroes. (R) **5.25** Brothers & Sisters. (R)

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.15** Chef Donald. (R) **10.20** ThunderCats. **10.55** Meerkat Manor. (R) **11.25** Ice Road Truckers: Deadliest Roads. (R) **12.25** Charley Boorman's Extreme Frontiers. (R) **1.30** Cars Toons. **1.35** Film: Mrs Miracle. (2009) **3.25** Film: Meet the Santas. (2005) Fantasy comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg. **5.05** Film: Scrooge – A Christmas Carol. (1951) Charles Dickens' fantasy, starring Alastair Sim.

**7.00** Eddie Stobart's Christmas Delivery. Festive edition of the documentary series, in which the company's trucks battle winter conditions to ensure shops and councils receive their supply of Christmas trees and salt.

**7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** The Gadget Show.

**Christmas Eve Special.** Suzi Perry investigates 4G communications, Jason Bradbury examines products due to hit the shops in 2012, and Jon Bentley views an advanced helmet designed for fighter-jet pilots.

**9.00** Greatest Christmas TV Moments. Countdown of 50 Christmas TV crackers, featuring Gavin & Stacey, Morecambe and Wise, Only Fools and Horses, Wallace and Gromit, Doctor Who, Top of the Pops and The Royle Family.

**12.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** Great Artists. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Beaches. **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

**ITV2** **3.15** Aladdin. **4.45** Jack and the Beanstalk. **6.15** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **8.00** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **10.00** Celebrity Juice: Christmas Special **11.00** Film: The Bourne Identity (2002)

**ITV3** **2.35** A Christmas Carol **4.05** Christmas Lights **5.30** The Darling Buds of May **6.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **11.00** Film: Santa Claus: The Movie (1985)

**ITV4** **4.00** Film: The 'Burbs (1989) **6.00** Film: Dragnet (1987) **8.10** Film: Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **10.00** Film: Demolition Man (1993)

**BBC THREE** **7.00** Great Movie Mistakes 2011: Not in 3D **8.00** Top Gear **9.20** Film: Son of Rambow (2008) **10.50** EastEnders **11.20** Family Guy

**BBC FOUR** **7.00** Timeshift: The Golden Age of Trams – A Streetcar Named Desire. A history of trams in Britain, exploring why they became popular in cities and towns at the start of the 20th century – and discovering why some areas have reintroduced them. **8.00** The Pharaoh Who Conquered the Sea **9.00** Film: Land of the Pharaohs (1955) **10.40** Timeshift: Epic – A Cast of Thousands! **11.40** The Doris Day Special

**E4** **3.35** Sorority Girls **4.40** Desperate Scousewives **5.40** Scrubs **6.35** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** The World's Greatest Prankster **11.05** Film: Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan (2006)

**FILM4** **3.25** The Thirty-Nine Steps (1959) **5.15** My Neighbour Totoro (1988) **7.00** The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) **9.00** Star Trek (2009) **11.20** Bronson (2008)

## Seasons Greetings to all of our customers and partners

from The Community Housing Group's Board of Management, Executive Team and Staff



During the Christmas holidays, our offices will be closed from:

Friday 23rd December at 5pm to Tuesday 3rd January 2012

Our Customer Service Team at the Kidderminster Hub will be available on Wednesday 28th December, from 10am - 5pm

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**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Nativity. (R) **10.00** Christmas Day Eucharist from Lichfield Cathedral. **11.00** Songs of Praise - Christmas Day Big Sing. **11.40** Morecambe and Wise. (R) **12.25** BBC News; Weather. **12.35** Film: Kung Fu Panda. (2008) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jack Black. **2.00** Top of the Pops Christmas 2011. **3.00** The Queen. (2009) Premiere. Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. **4.35** BBC News; Weather. **4.50** Film: Ratatouille. (2007) Premiere. Pixar animated comedy, with the voice of Patton Oswalt.

**6.30** The Gruffalo's Child. **7.00** Doctor Who. The Time Lord helps a wartime widow and her children realise their dreams.

**8.00** Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special 2011. With Barry McGuigan, Su Pollard, Simon Webbe, Debra Stephenson and Charlie Brooks.

**9.00** EastEnders. Hour-long episode. Masood sets out to bring Kamil home, but Yusuf has one more trick to play. Shirley is shocked to discover the identity of Phil's stalker.

**10.00** Absolutely Fabulous. **10.30** Michael McIntyre's Christmas Comedy Roadshow.

**11.30** BBC News; Weather. **11.45** On Christmas Night. **11.50** Have I Got a Bit More News for You. (R)

**12.30** The Graham Norton Show Christmas Special. (R) **1.35** Film: The Hot Chick. (2002) Body-swap comedy, starring Rob Schneider. **3.10** Weatherview. **3.15** BBC News.

**6.00** CBeebies. **7.10** CBBC. **9.35** Film: The Magic Roundabout. (2005) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ian McKellen. **10.50** Film: The Sword in the Stone. (1963) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Picky Sorenson. **12.10** Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. (R) **2.10** A Musical Nativity with John Rutter. **3.10** The Prince and the Composer.

(R) **4.40** Dad's Army. **5.10** Porridge. (R) **5.50** The Queen. Her Majesty's annual address to the nation and the Commonwealth. (R)

**6.00** Christmas University Challenge. The first semi-final of the festive quiz. **6.30** Darcey Bussell Dances Hollywood. The former Royal Ballet star celebrates classic dance musicals.

**8.00** Blackadder the Third. The new prime minister plots to bankrupt the Prince Regent. (R)

**8.30** Blackadder the Third. Edmund falls foul of Dr Johnson. (R)

**9.00** The Toys That Made Christmas. A look back at playthings of the past.

**10.30** James May's Man Lab Xmas Special. (R)

**11.30** Victoria Wood with All the Trimmings. (R)

**12.25** The Many Faces of Les Dawson. (R) **1.25** QI. (R) **1.55** Film: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt. (1956) **3.15** Close.

**6.00** Emmerdale. Hour-long episode. Amy makes a decision about Kyle's future. **7.00** All Star Family Fortunes Christmas Special. **8.00** Coronation Street. **9.00** Downton Abbey. Violet has concerns about Rosamund's new suitor (guest star Nigel Havers).

**11.05** ITV News; Weather. **11.20** Benidorm. (R)

**12.35** The Comedy Annual. Comedians talk about the key moments of 2011. (R) **1.35** Film: The Towering Inferno. (1974) Disaster movie, starring Paul Newman and Steve McQueen. **ITV News Headlines. 4.20** Kojak. (R) **5.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.55** ITV Morning News.

**6.00** CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **7.45** Film: The Borrowers. (1997) Children's fantasy, starring John Goodman. **9.25** Film: March of the Penguins. (2005) Oscar-winning nature documentary, narrated by Morgan Freeman. **11.00** Film: Miracle on 34th Street. (1994) Christmas family drama remake, with Richard Attenborough. **1.05** ITV News; Weather. **1.15** Film: Aladdin. (1992) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Robin Williams. **3.00** The Queen. **3.10** Film: Happy Feet. (2006) Animated adventure, with the voice of Elijah Wood. **5.10** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** New You've Been Framed!

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**6.10** Film: The Ugly Duckling and Me. (2006) Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Morgan C Jones. **7.40** The Simpsons. (R) **8.00** The Simpsons. (R) **8.30** Film: James and the Giant Peach. (1996) Children's fantasy, with Paul Terry. **10.00** Gordon's Christmas Cookalong Live. **2.00** Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas. **2.30** The Snowman. (R) **3.00** Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.05** Channel 4 News. **4.10** 4thought.tv. **4.15** The Alternative Christmas Message. **4.20** Deal or No Deal: Deal Panto. **5.20** Film: Big. (1988) A boy is magically transported into the body of a 30-year-old man and applies his childlike brain to the problems of adult life. Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Elizabeth Perkins.

**7.15** FILM: Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs. (2009) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of John Leguizamo. **9.00** Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special. With Ruth Jones, David Walliams, Jedward and Steps. **10.00** Rude Tube: Epic Christmas. Alex Zane presents the 50 greatest festive internet videos. **11.05** So This Is Christmas. **12.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats Christmas Special. **1.05** American Football Live. **4.45** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Rally Driving. (R) **4.50** Post Modern Pastimes. (R) **5.00** Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. (R) **5.25** Scrapheap Challenge. (R)

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**6.00** Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.15** Fireman Sam Christmas Special. (R) **6.35** Castle Farm. **6.45** Igan Ogam. (R) **6.55** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.00** The Milkshake! Show. **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.45** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.10** Angelina Ballerina. **8.25** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Film: Mist: The Tale of a Sheepdog Puppy. (2006) Live-action animal adventure, featuring the voice of Mel Giedroyc. **10.30** Trailer Horn. **10.35** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.55** Andre Rieu's Christmas Spectacular. **11.55** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.55** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.55** Cars - Unidentified Flying Mater. **2.00** Film: Mrs. Miracle 2: Miracle in Manhattan. (2010) Family drama sequel, starring Doris Roberts. **3.45** Film: Mrs Santa Claus. (1996) Period musical, starring Angela Lansbury. **5.30** Film: The Santa Suit. (2010) Premiere. Comedy, starring Kevin Sorbo and Jodie Dowdall.

**7.25** FILM: The Christmas Card. (2006) Romantic drama, starring John Newton and Alice Evans.

**9.05** Eddie Stobart's Christmas Delivery. Festive edition of the documentary series. (R)

**10.00** Britain's Favourite Christmas Songs. Festive music countdown.

**1.00** SuperCasino. **3.55** Meals in Moments. (R) **4.05** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.30** Divine Designs. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

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**ITV2**  
**3.00** The Xtra Factor: Louis' Best and Worst  
**4.00** The Xtra Factor: Tulisa's Best and Worst  
**5.00** The Xtra Factor: Kelly's Best and Worst  
**6.00** The Xtra Factor: Gary's Best and Worst  
**7.00** Film: Jack Frost (1998) **9.00** Film: The Bourne Supremacy (2004) **11.05** Celebrity Juice: Christmas Special

**ITV3**  
**3.20** Film: Carry On Cowboy (1966) **5.20** Film: Carry On Cleo (1964) **7.10** Film: Carry On Camping (1969) **9.00** Film: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **10.55** Film: Carry On Jack (1963)

**ITV4**  
**2.25** Film: Night Passage (1957) **4.15** Film: Spartacus (1960) **8.00** Film: The Magnificent Seven Ride! (1972) **10.00** Film: Rocky (1976) Oscar-winning boxing drama, starring Sylvester Stallone.

**BBC THREE**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes 2011: Not in 3D  
**8.00** Film: Armageddon (1998) **10.20** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.05** EastEnders

**BBC FOUR**  
**7.00** Film: El Cid (1961) **9.50** The Johnny Cash TV Show: Country Gold **10.50** Top of the Pops 1976: Christmas Day Special **11.40** Top of the Pops 1976 Christmas Special

**E4**  
**2.45** Film: Jingle All the Way (1996) **4.30** Film: Annie (1982) **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.55** Film: Independence Day (1996) **10.40** The Big Bang Theory **11.40** Tool Academy

**FILM4**  
**3.20** Miracle on 34th Street (1947) **5.10** Ponyo (2008) **7.15** The Ladykillers (1955). A criminal and his gang meet their match when an elderly landlady unknowingly thwarts their attempts to kill her. Ealing comedy, with Alec Guinness. **9.00** Juno (2007). Comedy, starring Ellen Page. **10.50** Watchmen (2009) Comic-book drama, starring Patrick Wilson.



## The Ultimate Family New Year's Eve Party

Celebrate New Year's Eve with the party of the year and dance the night away with our resident DJ! Tree Tops Pavilion is the ideal venue to celebrate this wonderful occasion amongst all your best friends and family.

Celebrate the New Year to the chimes of Big Ben and then enjoy the party until 1:00am.

Dress Code: Smart Casual.



Spring Grove House, West Midland Safari Park, Spring Grove, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 1LF



**BBC1** 9.00 Breakfast: 9.00 CBBC: 9.10 The Gruffalo. (R) 9.35 The Gruffalo's Child. (R) 10.00 Film: The Jungle Book 2. 10.30 The Wonderful World of Disney: the voice of Halsey Joel Osmer. 11.00 Beverly Hills Chihuahua. (2008) Premiere. Comedy, with the voice of Drew Barrymore. 12.35 The 100th Anniversary of the Great War: Weather. 12.55 Morecambe and Wise (R) 2.00 Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special 2011. (R) 3.00 Winter Wipeout Christmas Special (R) 4.00 Animal World: Shark (2004). Animated adventure sequel. 5.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Great War: Weather. 5.35 Regional News Programmes: Weather. 5.40 Jim'll Fix It with Shane Richie. 6.10 The Madagascars: The Movie (2005) 6.30 The BFG. 6.50 EastEnders. 7.30 The Royal Bodyguard. 10.00 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special. 10.30 BBC News: Weather. 10.45 Match of the Day. 11.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Great War: Sign Zone: Holly City. (R) 11.35 BBC News.

**BBC2** 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.55  
Film: *Heidi*. (P) 10.10 Film: *The Grimsby*. (R)  
Mystery of the *Flamingoes*. (2008) 12.45 Film  
Mansfield Park. (1999) 2.35 Film: *Emma*. (1996)  
4.30 Final Score. 5.10 Film: *Becoming Jane*.  
(2006) 7.00 *Springwatch Christmas Special*. 8.30  
Christmas University Challenge. 9.00 *Jane*  
Austen: *The Unseen Portrait*? 10.00 *Victoria*  
Wood: Seen on TV. (R) 11.30 *Ruth Jones*  
Christmas Special. (R) 12.11 Film: *Mr. Bean*. (2004)  
Grumpy's Guide to Food. 1.10 Film: *Cat People*.  
(1942) 2.00 BBC News.

**ITV1** 8.00 **CITV:** Supernatural. (R) 6.20  
 8.30 **Comptonbeats:** SquaresPants. (R) 6.20  
 Horrid Henry. (R) 6.35 Almost Naked Animals.  
 6.50 Almost Naked Animals. 7.05 Fleabag  
 Monkeyface. 7.20 Fleabag Monkeyface. 7.35  
 Fleabag Monkeyface. 7.50 **ITV2:** *Top Gear*  
 (1996) 9.25 *Best Ever Christmas Films.* (R) 10.25  
 Goodnight Mister Tom. (R) 12.20 **ITV News:**  
 Weather. 12.30 Film: *Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties.*  
 (2006) 2.00 50 Greatest Harry Potter Moments.  
 3.00 **ITV3:** *Top Gear* (1996) 9.25 *Best Ever Christmas*  
*Secrets.* (2002) Fantasy adventure special, starring  
 Daniel Radcliffe. 6.20 **ITV News:** Weather. 6.30  
 Emmerdale. 7.00 *The Unforgettable* Ernie Wise.  
 7.15 **ITV4:** *Top Gear* (1996) 9.25 *Best Ever Christmas*  
*Point.* 11.00 **ITV News:** Weather. 11.15 Film:  
*Gladiator.* (2000) Oscar-winning Roman epic,  
 starring Russell Crowe. **ITV News** Headlines. 2.05  
 3.00 **ITV5:** *Top Gear* (1996) 9.25 *Best Ever Christmas*  
*ITV Morning News.* 4.10 **ITV News:** Weather. 5.55

**Channel 4** 6.20 The Treacle People. (R) 6.30 The Family. (R) 6.35 Hunted. (1987) Disney adventure, with Red Steagall. 8.00 The Bear. (R) 8.30 The Morning Line. 9.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 9.55 The Big Bang Theory. 10.25 The Simpsons. (R) 10.55 The Simpsons. (R) 11.25 Film: Bugsy Malone. (1976) 11.45 Channel 4 Racing. 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. 1.40 Deal or No Deal: Deal Panto. 5.10 Christmas Coach Trip. 5.45 Channel 4 News. 6.00 4thout. tv. 6.05 Hollyoaks. 6.35 Come Dine with Me: Christmas Special. 7.05 Film: Home Alone. (1990) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. 9.00 The Simpsons. (R) 9.30 The Simpsons. (R) 9.55 Moyle's Christmas Quiz Night. 10.50 Father Ted: Unintelligent Design. (R) 11.20 Small, Far Away - The World of Father Ted. (R) 12.25 Father Ted. (R) 12.55 Random Acts. 1.00 Film: The Godfather. (1972) 4.05 The London's Burning. (R) 5.00 World's Funniest Home Videos. 5.30 The Simpsons. (R) 5.55 Brothers & Sisters. (R)

Channel 5	6.00	Milkshake!	10.00
	11.05	Thunder Cats.	10.35
Meerkat Manor. (R)	10.55	Meerkat Manor. (R)	
Mase Ice Road Trainers. (R)	12.30	5 News	
Luncheon. 12.45	Film: The Producers. (2005)		
Musical comedy, starring Howard Broderick. 3.10	Film: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. (1954)		
Musical Western, starring Howard Keel. 5.10	Film: The Wizard of Oz. (1939)	Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland. 7.05	Britain's Favourite Christmas Songs. (R) 10.00
Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987)	Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze. 12.05	Film: Fragile. 2.00	SuperCine. 4.00
Meads in Moments. (R) 4.10	Greys' Anatomy. 4.55	County Secrets. (R) 5.10	House Doctor. (R)

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**BBC2** 6.00 Cbeebies. 7.00 CBeeBee. 9.15 Film: *Scamp Rock*. (2008) Romantic teen musical starring *Lea Lovatt*. 10.55 *Madagascar*. (R) 11.45 *Yellowstone*. (R) 12.45 *Life Horse Racing*. 3.05 *Watching the Wild: Cornish Seals*. (R) 3.15 *Coast*. (R) 4.15 *Flog It!* 5.00 *Escape to the Country*. (R) 5.45 *Antiques Road Trip*. 6.30 *Christmas*. *University Challenge*. (R) 7.45 *Red*. (R) 30 *David's Army*. (R) 8.00 *Yes Have Been Watching – David Croft*. 9.00 *Three Men Go to New England*. 10.00 *Have I Got News for You*. (R) 10.30 *I've Never Seen Star Wars*. 11.00 *Mock the Week*. (R) 11.30 *The Toys That Made Us*. (R) 1.00 *The Grumpy Guide to Work*. 1.15 *Life Walked with a Zombie*. (1943) 2.35 *BBC News*.

**TV-14** 6.00 **CITY:** Supernatural (R) 6.10  
SungbeBoh SquarePants (R) 6.20  
Horrid Henry (R) 6.35 Almost Naked Animals. 7.05 Film: The Prince and the Pauper. (1977) 9.25 Film: King Ralph. (1991) 11.00 News: Weather. 11.30 Film: From Time to Time. (2009) 1.20 Film: Cats & Dogs. (2001) 3.00 All Star Family Fortunes Christmas Special. (R) 4.00 You've Been Framed! (R) 4.30 Film: The Mummy. (1999) 6.00 The Grand Emperor. (2008) 6.30 Regional News. Weather. 6.45 **ITV News:** Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 The Adventurer's Guide to Britain. 8.00 Susan Boyle: An Unlikely Star. (2009) 8.30 The 100 Greatest. (2009) 9.00 Me. 10.30 Film: King Kong. (2005) 11.30 **ITV News:** Weather. 11.45 Film: King Kong. (2005) 2.10 Premiership Rugby Union. **ITV News:** Weather. (R) 3.55 **ITV News:** Nightscreen. 5.55 **ITV Morning News**

**Channel 4** 6.40 *Sail Mail*. (R) 6.45 *The Hoobs*. (R) 7.20 *Famous Fred*. (R) 7.50 *Little Wolf's Book of Badness*. (R) 8.15 *Perfect Couples*. 8.40 *Everybody Loves Raymond*. (R) 9.10 *Everybody Loves Raymond*. (R) 9.40 *Frasier*. (R) 10.10 *Frasier*. (R) 10.40 *The Big Bang Theory*. 11.05 *The Big Bang Theory*. (R) 11.35 *The Simpsons*. (R) 12.00 *The Simpsons*. (R) 12.30 *Film: Five Children and It*. (2004) 2.15 *Film: Penelope*. (2006) 4.00 *Deal or No Deal*. *Deal Panto*. 5.00 *Christmas Coach Trip*. 5.30 *Celebrity Come Dine With Me*. 6.00 *TV*. (R) 6.30 *Hollyoaks*. 7.00 *Channel 4 News*. 7.25 *4thought*. 7.30 *Come Dine With Me: Celebrity Christmas Special*. 8.00 *Big Fat Gypsy Christmas*. (R) 9.00 *Big Fat Quiz of the Year*. 2011. 11.05 *Comedy Land: Mr & Mrs Hotty Hot! Hot Show*. 12.40 *Random Acts*. 12.45 *UK & Ireland Poker Tour*. 1.40 *Extreme Sailing Series*. 2.05 *Sailing*. 2.35 *Freepons on 4*. (R) 3.00 *Beach Volleyball*. 3.30 *KTV*. 4.00 *TV*. 4.30 *TV*. 4.55 *It's the Last News on 4*. 5.20 *Brothers & Sisters*. (R)

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 10.00  
ThunderCats. 10.35  
Meerkat Manor. (R) 11.05 Animal Rescue Squad.  
(R) 11.20 World's Strongest Man 111: Qualifiers.  
(R) 12.25 5 News Lunchtime. 12.35 Film: Crazy  
for Christmas. (2005) 2.25 Film: I Saw Mommy  
Kissing Santa Claus. (2002) 4.10 Film: Twice  
Upon a Time. (1998) 5.50 Film: Little Women.  
(1994): 5 News Update. 8.00 World's Strongest  
Man. 8.15; 5 News at 9.30 Carry On Christmas.  
10.00 Film: The 12 Days of Christmas. (1996)  
11.05 Cor. Blimey! (R) 1.15 SuperCasino 3.55  
Meals in Moments. (R) 1.15

**BBC1** **10.00** Breakfast. **9.00** Film: *Spy Kids 2*: The Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **10.35** Film: *High School Musical 2* (2007) **11.00** BBC News. **12.00** BBC News. **12.35** Only Fools and Horses (R) **1.25** The Two Ronnies Christmas Sketchbook (R) **2.30** Film: *Shall We Dance?* (2004) **4.00** Film: *Shall We Dance?* (2004) **5.00** News. **5.30** News. **6.00** Regional News Programmes; **Weather**. **6.30** Celebrity Mastermind. **7.00** Frozen. **7.30** The Great British Bake Off. **8.00** The Great British Bake Off. **8.30** The Great British Bake Off. **9.00** BBC News. **10.10** Regional News; **Weather**. **10.20** The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draw (2036) **10.30** Comic Relief 2006: A Night of Stars. **11.00** National Lottery. **11.30** Film: *12.00 Film: *It's a Boy Girl Thing* (2006) **1.25** Weatherwatch. **1.30** Sign Zone. **4.00** Expectations. (R) **2.30** Film: *Nativity!* (2009) **4.10***

**BBC** News  
**BBC2** 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 9.00 Film: The Country Bears. (R) 10.25 Madagascar. (R) 11.25 Yellowstone. (R) 12.25 The Many Faces of Michael Caine. (R) 1.25 The World We Would Be King. (R) 2.05 Period adventure, starring Sean Connery and Michael Caine. 3.30 Flop It! (R) 4.30 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.30 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 6.15 Porridge. (R) 7.00 Sir Jimmy Savile at the BBC: How's About That? Then? 8.00 Top Gear. 9.30 Three Men Go To New England. 10.30 Dara O Briain: This Show Is Not Just Sir Jimmy Savile. 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 Cl. (R) 12.30 Being Ronnie Corbett. (R) 1.30 Film: The Leopold Man. (1943) 2.35 BBC News.

**ITV1** 6.30 CITV: Supernormal. (R) 6.30  
SpongeBob SquarePants. (R) 6.30  
Horrid Henry. (R) 6.35 All Naked Naked Animals.  
6.50 All Naked Naked Animals. 7.05 Fleabag  
and the Fleabag. (R) 7.10 The Big Bang  
K-9. (1989) 9.25 Countrywide at Christmas. (R)  
10.25 Film: The Great St Trinian's Trunk Robbery.  
(1966) 10.25 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 1.05 ITV  
News at Ten. (R) 1.10 The Big Bang K-9.  
(1989) 1.30 Grease: After We Famous. (R) 2.35  
Midsummer Murders. (R) 4.30 Lewis. (R) 6.30  
Regional News. 6.45 Weather. 6.45 ITV News;  
6.50 ITV News. 7.00 ITV News. 7.00 ITV News.  
Kitchen: New Year Festive Feasts. 8.00 Ad of the  
Year. 9.00 I'll Be Alright on the Night. 10.00 ITV  
News at Ten. Weather. 10.10 Regional News;  
10.15 ITV News. 10.15 ITV News. 10.15 ITV News.  
Ross Show. (R) 12.30 The Zone. ITV News  
Headlines. 2.30 Film: Village of the Damned.  
(1995) 4.10 ITV Nightscreen. 5.55 ITV Morning

**Channel 4** **6.10** Treacle People (6.30)  
The Hoobs. (R) **6.55** The Christmas Special. (R) **7.20** Wild Stories. (R) **7.50** Perfect Couples. **8.15** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.15** Frasier. (R) **9.45** The Big Bang Theory. **10.15** The Big Bang Theory. **10.45** The Simpsons. **11.15** The Simpsons. **11.45** Film: Firehouse Dog. (2007) **1.50** Film: Star Trek: First Contact. (1996) **4.00** Deal or No Deal: Deal! Panto. **5.00** Christmas Coach Trip. **5.30** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) **6.00** The Christmas Special. **6.30** The Christmas Special. News. **7.25** 4thoughttv. **7.30** Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special. **8.00** Jon Snow's 2011. **9.00** The Untold Tommy Cooper. **10.35** Police and Murdo. **11.10** The Armstrong & Miller Show - The Christmas Special. **11.35** Random Acts. **1.40** Music on 4: Live from Abbey Road. **2.25** Music on 4: Taio Cruz: Life of a Rockstar. **2.50** Music on 4: The Album Chart Show. Spotlight. **3.05** Happy Endings. **3.55** Film: The Christmas Special. **4.00** Sisters. (R) **4.30** Sisters. (R)

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 10.00  
Thunder Cats. 10.35  
Mickey's Delayed Date. 10.40 Meerkat Manor. (R)  
11.10 World's Strongest Man 2011. (R) 12.10 5  
News Lunchtime. 12.15 Film: Apache Drums.  
(1951) 1.50 Film: Six Black Horses. (1962)  
Western, starring Audie Murphy. 3.25 Film: Custer  
of the West. (1967) 6.10 The Witches of Oz; 5  
News Update. 8.00 World's Strongest Man 2011;  
5 News at 9. 9.00 Ben Hur. 12.30 Poker: The Big  
Game. 1.30 Super Casino. 4.00 Meals in Moments.

<b>BBC1</b>	<b>6.00 Breakfast</b>	<b>9.00 CBBC 9.10</b>
	Film: <i>Spy Kids</i>	3-D: <i>Game Over</i>
	(2003)	<b>10.25 Film Sharpa's</b>
	<b>Fabulous Adult</b>	<b>11.00 The Big Bang Theory</b>
	Jungle (1997) <b>1.20 BBC News; Weather. 1.35</b>	
	<b>Regional News; Weather. 1.40 Only Fools and Horses (P) 2.35</b>	<b>The Two Ronnies Sketchbook</b>
	<b>2.40 The Simpsons (P) 3.00 The Simpsons (P)</b>	<b>3.00 The Simpsons (P)</b>
	<b>CBBC News; Weather. 6.20 Regional News</b>	
	<b>Programmes; Weather. 6.30 Celebrity Mastermind.</b>	
	<b>6.40 Wallace &amp; Gromit: A Close Shave</b>	
	<b>7.00 EastEnders 8.00 Ant &amp; Dec 9.10</b>	
	<b>Great Expectations. 10.00 BBC News. 10.10</b>	
	<b>Regional News; Weather. 10.20 Absolutely Fabulous</b>	
	<b>10.30 The Simpsons; I Love Lucy (M) 11.00</b>	
	<b>12.30 Skating Lessons. 12.35 Sign One.</b>	
	<b>James May's Man Lab Xmas Special (R) 1.35</b>	
	<b>Great Expectations (F) 2.35 Lapland (R) 3.50</b>	

**BBC2** 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.45 Film: Tarzan's Greatest Adventure. (1959) 10.05 Madagascar. (R) 11.05 Yellowstone. (R) 12.05 Film: The Ipcress File. (1965) 1.50 Film: Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. (1988) 3.35 Flog It! (R) 4.35 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.35 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 6.20 Film: Confessions of a Shopaholic. (2009) 8.00 Dragons Den: The Hilarious Buy Story. (R) 9.00 9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (2008) The Body Shop of Stars. (R) (R) 11.00 Have I Got to Go for You. (R) 11.30 Cl. (R) 12.00 I've Never Seen Star Wars. (R) 12.30 The John Craven Years. (R) 1.30 Film: The Body Snatcher. (1945) 2.50 BBC News.

**ITV** 6.01 *Citiz. Monk.* 6.55 *SpongeBob SquarePants*. (R) 6.58 *Herring Heatz*. (R) 6.30 *Almost Naked Animals*. 6.55 *Almost Naked Animals*. 6.55 *Fleabag Monkeyface*. 7.15 *Fleabag Monkeyface*. 7.25 *Citiz. Monk.* Share a Story Winner. 7.40 Film: *New York Minute*. (2004) 9.25 *The Simpsons*. (R) 9.30 *Cartoon Network*. (R) 9.55 *All Star Family Fortunes*. (R) 10.55 Film: *The Railway Children*. (1970) 1.00 **ITV News**; **Weather**. 1.25 **Regional News**: **Weather**. 1.30 *Chitty Bang Bang*. After They Were Famous... *Chitty Bang Bang*. (1968) 1.55 *Inspector Morse*. (R) 2.00 *Inspector Morse*. (R) 2.30 **Regional News**; **Weather**. 6.45 **ITV News**; **Weather**. 7.00 *Emmerdale*. 7.30 That Was 2011: The ITV News at Ten Special. (2011) 7.55 *Coronation Street*. 9.00 *Paddy's* 2011 Show and Telly. 10.00 **ITV News** at Ten; **Weather**. 10.10 **Regional News**; **Weather**. 10.15 Film: *Notting Hill*. (1999) 12.30 **The Zone**: **ITV News Headlines**. 2.35 *ITV Morning News*. (1983) 6.25 **ITV Nightscreen**. 5.55 *ITV Morning News*.

**Channel 4** 6.15 *Sail Mali*. (R) 6.20 *The Hoobs*. (R) 7.10 *Wild Stories*. (R) 7.45 *Perfect Couples*. 8.05 *Everybody Loves Raymond*. (R) 8.35 *Everybody Loves Raymond*. (R) 9.05 *Frasier*. (R) 9.35 *Frasier*. (R) 10.05 *The Big Bang Theory*. (R) 10.35 *The Big Bang Theory*. 11.05 *The Simpsons*. (R) 11.35 *The Simpsons*. (R) 12.05 *The Simpsons*. (R) 12.35 *Spot Run*. (2001) Canine comedy, starring David Arquette. 1.55 *Film: Never Been Kissed*. (1999) Romantic comedy, with Drew Barrymore and Michael Vartan. 4.00 *Come Dine with Me*. 5.00 *Movie: The Ex*. (2003) Romantic comedy, with Rachel McAdams. 6.00 *The Simpsons*. (R) 6.30 *Hollyoaks*. 7.00 *Channel 4 News*. 7.25 *4thought*. tv. 7.30 *Come Dine with Me*: Celebrity Christmas Special. 8.00 *Living with the Amish*. (2004) Film. 8.45 *Movie: The Ex*. (2003) Romantic horror, starring Ben Barnes. 11.10 *Comic Strip Presents* - The Hunt for Tony Blair. (R) 12.15 *Random Acts*. 12.20 *Film: The Godfather: Part II*. (1974) 3.50 *Brave New World*, with Stephen Rea. (1994) 4.45 *Movie: The Ex*. (2003) 5.35 *Sail Mali*. (R) 5.50 *The Jreadin' People*. (R)

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 ThunderCats. 10.35 Zoo Days. (R) 10.50 World's Strongest Man 2011. (R) 11.50 5 News Lunchtime. 11.55 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.55 Film: Back to the Secret Garden. (2000) 2.55 Film: David Copperfield. (2000) Charles 6.20 The Witches of Oz; 5 News Update. 8.00 World's Strongest Man 2011; 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Menestrel. 10.00 It's All About Amy. 11.00 The Truth About Cheryl Cole. (R) 12.00 SuperCasino. 3.55 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.55 Wildlife SOS. (R)

**BBC1** 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Film: The Cat in the Hat. (2003) 10.20 Film: Sky High. (2005) 11.55 Film: Pauley. (1998) 1.20 The Big Bang Theory. 2.00 Weather. 1.45 Only Fools and Horses. (R) 2.20 Only Fools and Horses. (R) 3.30 Film: National Treasure. (2004) 5.30 Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave. 6.00 News. 6.30 News. 6.55 Regional News Programmes. Weather. 6.30 Celebrity Mastermind. 7.00 The One Show: Best of 2011. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Have I Got News for You. 9.00 News. 9.30 News. 9.55 Regional News. Weather. 10.20 The Graham Norton Show. 1.05 John Bishop: Britain's Got Comedy. 1.15 The National Lottery. 1.20 News. 1.45 News. 1.50 News. 1.55 Sign Zone: Great Expectations. (R) 2.55 Fry's Planet Word. (R) 3.55

**BBC2** 6.00 CBeebies, 7.00 CBBC, 9.00 Film: David Copperfield, (1935) **11.05 Film:** The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby, (1947) **12.50 Film:** A Tale of Two Cities, (1958) **2.45 Film:** The Great Escape, (1963) **3.45 Film:** The Long Walk Home, (1990) **4.45 Film:** The Long Walk Home, (1990) **5.45** Antiques Road Trip, **(R)** **6.30** The Good House, **(R)** **7.00** As Time Goes By, **(R)** **8.00** The Many Faces of Dame Judy Dench, **9.00** Mrs Dickens' Family Christmas, **10.00** Q! XL, **(R)** **10.45** Film: The Transgression, (2008) **12.25** Never Mind the Buzzcocks, (1998) **1.00** The Curse of the Cat People, (1944) **1.15** Film: The Curse of the Cat People, (1944) **2.35** BBC News.

**TV-14** **6.30** CITV: Monk. **6.05** SportsBabes. **6.30** SquarePants. **6.15** Harold Henry. **6.30** Almost Naked Animals. **6.45** Almost Naked Animals. **7.00** Fleabag Monkeyface. **7.15** Fleabag Monkeyface. **7.30** Film: Shockers (1985) **9.25** The 100th Anniversary Special. **9.55** The 100th Anniversary Special. **10.00** Polyanna. **10.25** ITV News: Weather. **1.25** Regional News: Weather. **1.30** ITV News: Weather. **1.35** Regional News: Weather. **1.40** Agatha Christie's Poirot. **1.43** Inspector Morse. **1.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.30** Regional News: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. **7.30** Coronation Street. **7.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.50** ITV News: Weather. **8.30** You've Been Framed! **9.00** A Royal Year to Remember. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.10** Regional News: Weather. **10.15** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Regional News: Weather. **10.25** ITV News: Weather. **10.30** ITV News: Weather. **10.35** ITV News: 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## Channel 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40  
Wild Stories. (R) 7.10  
Perfect Couples. 7.35 Eve's Body. starring Raymond  
(R) 8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.35  
Frasier. (R) 9.05 Frasier. (R) 9.35 The Big Bang  
Theory. 10.05 The Big Bang Theory. 10.35 The  
Simpsons. (R) 11.10 The Simpsons. (R) 11.40 Film:  
The Graduate. (1997) Teen comedy starring Richard  
Sherlock. 11.45 Film: Cuthroat Island. (1995)  
Swashbuckling adventure, starring Geena Davis.  
5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.00 Christmas Coach  
Trip. 5.30 Celebrity Come Dine with Me Extra  
Special. 6.00 The 100th Anniversary Special. 6.30  
Hollywoods. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.25 4th Night. 7.30  
Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas  
Special. 8.00 Bear's Wild Weekend with Miranda  
(R) 9.00 Comedy Showcase: The Angelos Neil  
Special. 9.30 The 100th Anniversary Special. 10.00  
Arena. (R) 10.35 An Evening with Lee Evans.  
11.05 The World of Lee Evans. (R) 11.40 The World  
of Lee Evans. (R) 12.10 Random Acts. 12.15 Film:  
The Godfather: Part III. (1990) 3.15 Steve Jobs:  
Changed the World. (R) 4.10 Brave New World  
Special. (R) 4.30

**Channel 5** 6.00 Milkshake! 10.00  
ThunderCats. 10.35 Animal  
Rescue Squad. (R) 10.50 Meerkat Manor. (R)  
2012 World's Strongest Man 2011. (R) 12.25 5  
News Lunchtime. 12.35 Ice Road Truckers. (R)  
3.30 Film: Showdown at Abilene. (1956) 3.15 Film:  
Alice in Wonderland. (1999) 5.45 Film: Snow White.  
2001 7.30 Fifth Gear; 5 News Update. 8.00  
World's Strongest Man 2011; 5 News Update. 9.00  
Most Shocking Celebrity Moments of 2011. 12.00  
SuperCar. 4.05 Motorsport Mural. 4.30 Fifth  
(R) 4.55 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 House  
Doctor. (R)

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For the Mazda6, the improvements bring a CO2 reduction on all Mazda6 2.2-litre 5-door diesel

163ps and 180ps models – dropping from 142 to 140g/km, which means a £15 a year VED saving as models drop from Band F (£130) to Band E (£115).

Meanwhile, a 5g/km CO2 reduction (138g/km to 133g/km) on all 2.2-litre 5-door diesel 129ps models, including the Mazda6 Business Line, drops them into the 19 percent BIK tax bracket (previously 20 percent) in 2011/12.

On the Mazda6 2.2-litre 5-door Diesel 129ps TS model the emissions cut delivers a BIK tax bill saving of £3.31 per month (£39.66

per year) for basic rate taxpayers and £6.61 per month (£79.32 per year) for higher rate taxpayers.

The Mazda6 2.2-litre 5-door Diesel 129ps Business Line model delivers cash savings of £3.02 per month (£36.26 per year) for basic rate taxpayers and £6.04 per month (£72.52 per year) for higher rate taxpayers.

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## SPORT

## thechronicle

## Visitors squander simple chances

CAUSEWAY UNITED and Bridgnorth drew 1-1 after a game that exploded into life in the last 10 minutes.

There were two goals and two clear opportunities missed by the visitors, who deserved to win the Midland Alliance clash on the basis of chances created.

Not that there were many of those, although Kevin Buxton should have given Bridgnorth the lead on 20 minutes when he put the ball wide from close range after Phil Grove set him up.

A minute later, Ash Jones produced a good save from Causeway goalkeeper Tom Turner. Causeway's only real chance of the first half came when Craig Gregg volleyed at Chris Crook.

Just after the break, Tom Reynolds should have done better than head straight at Crook when set up by Scott Stevenson.

Ash Jones gave the visitors the lead when he shot home from the edge of the area on 80 minutes.

But Adam Meacham headed home a Danny Priest cross four minutes from time to rescue a point and maintain Causeway's uneasy home league record. Bridgnorth should have won it when Grove and substitute Will Meredith wasted simple chances.

## Coaching is offered by Hawks

HALAS HAWKS are holding coaching sessions for boys and girls in reception and year one at two separate locations.

On Saturday mornings, budding young footballers can attend Britannia Park, Blackheath, or on Sunday mornings they can go to Windsor High School in Halesowen.

For further details contact Bob Hickman on 01384 637912.

Only two of the club's junior sides saw their games beat the frost.

The under-14s were beaten 3-1 at Ettingshall. Hawks fell behind in the first half to a scrambled goal but the second period saw good pressure from Halas and an equaliser through Michael Eaton.

They were hit on the break to go 2-1 down before conceding a killer third.

## McDermott enjoying life investing in youth

By Craig Birch

DARREN McDermott marked a year that changed his life by opening his own amateur boxing club – but it wasn't until he saw Gerald McClellan on television that he appreciated his luck.

The former Midlands and English middleweight champion, who also challenged for the British and Commonwealth titles, saw his career come to a sad end in September last year.

McDermott was in training for a shot at the British super-middleweight title against Paul Smith when a stray blow to the head from Nathan Cleverly, now a WBO world champion, left him in

danger. Brain surgery saved his life but ended his career at 32, leaving a huge void that could only be filled by staying in the sport.

Today, the 33-year-old is content again after opening his own amateur boxing club, Brooklands ABC, named after his house and run from his home gym in the back garden in Woodsetton, Sedgley.

His first five fighters have been cleared and carded and the club already has ABA status, with McDermott regaining the amateur trainer's licence he had from his days at Priory Park ABC.

On Saturday, the "Black Country Bodysnatcher" threw

open his doors to welcome friends and family of his fighters, so it's just as well there's a barbeque and pub in the back garden too. That said, the amateurs of Brooklands ABC had better not get used to it – parents are banned from the gym!

McDermott may not be boxing any more but he is still in control of his faculties, able to work for a living and get about as he chooses, leaving him grateful for big mercies. He said a recent TV documentary about Gerald McClellan made him realise just how lucky he

was. He said: "Somebody phoned me straight after the programme and said 'someone was looking after you, Darren, when that happened to you'."

"The things that he was doing in the ring that night, that was exactly how I felt. Like when he was touching his eye as if it was bleeding. When I had bleeding onto my brain, it popped something in my eye. It felt as if there was blood running down the front of my eyeball."

"I kept touching it and looking in the mirror and there was nothing there, but it looked as if my eye was bleeding. To see him

now and this is me, I have just got to thank my lucky stars."

Now the amateurs of Brooklands ABC represent McDermott's future in boxing. There's no way he won't look after his fighters – after all, the jewel in the crown is his younger brother, Jason.

Cradley's Jacob White and Wednesfield's Dean Taylor, both 16, will be in the ABA Juniors while Sedgley's Jack Griffiths, also 16, and Wolverhampton's Ethan Collins, 14, are works in progress.

McDermott said: "I am getting a buzz from watching these kids. I was looked after, like I think all kids should be."

## No treats for Yeltz in trip to seaside

HALESOWEN failed to build on an early lead and fell to a disappointing 3-2 Evo-Stik South Division One defeat after Chas Hemmings struck a hat-trick for lowly Clevedon.

The afternoon started brightly for the visitors when Nathaniel Caines swung over a left-wing cross and Justin Nisbett was left free to head Halesowen into a fifth-minute lead.

Clevedon had produced little until Hemmings bundled home an equaliser from George Brimson's cross in the 18th minute.

As Halesowen's early promise evaporated, Clevedon created the clearer chances. The Seaside took the lead three minutes before the interval when Hemmings unleashed a screaming 25-yard drive.

At the start of the second half Halesowen had to replace the injured Evans and his replacement Simon Flower was kept busy.

Hemmings completed his hat-trick in the 74th minute by heading home Brimson's corner.

Yeltz substitute Naveed Arshad curled in a loose ball with six minutes left but it was not enough.

## Comeback success for Wasps

WORDSLEY WASPS Under-9s West came from behind to beat Forest Falcons West with a brilliant 4-2 win.

Captain Skye Sykes pulled one back after Wasps had fallen 2-0 behind and Kai Del Kiffin levelled in the second half.

Shane Walker beat two defenders before firing Wordsley in front and Dan Street sealed the victory with a fourth.

The club's two under-11 sides did battle at Wordsley park and it was the West team who defeated the East 1-0. Lewis Kendrick smashed home the only goal.

The under-15s North have transformed their struggling start by going unbeaten in four Division three games after they beat Pensnett Panthers.

Jack Simmer got Wordsley's first and Michael Goulding claimed the winner.

## York humbled by 'fantastic' Harriers

**KIDDERMINSTER Harriers moved up to sixth in the Blue Square Bet Premier Division table after a 3-2 victory over a York City side whose 12-game unbeaten run came to an end.**

Assistant Manager Gary Whild was delighted with the result, which puts Harriers level on points with Luton.

"From the goalkeeper right through to the three subs it was a fantastic effort that was fully worth the three points," said Whild.

"Sometimes we don't get that credit, the lads are seen as hard workers who give their all but you can see tonight, against a very good team, that there is also plenty of quality there."

Harriers' leading marksman Jamille Matt netted a superb solo goal which drew praise from Whild.

He said: "He showed that quality for the third goal. It was a quality goal."

Harriers' first half performance left York reeling, and an early Jack Byrne header, from a Mickey Demetriou free kick settled early nerves for the visitors.

Byrne's fifth minute strike followed early chances for both Callum Gittings and Kyle Storer as Harriers made the early running.

Former Harriers' favourite Matty Blair levelled for the home side, but the visitors struck to regain their lead.

Lee Hendrie and Jamille Matt set up Gittings who held off the challenge of Jon Challinor to drill the ball past Michael Ingham on 21 minutes.

Chambers and Danny

By Craig Birch

Pilkington warmed the hands of Harriers custodian Tony Bredon before Matt took centre stage on 33 minutes.

The striker dispossessed Jamal Fyfield just inside the York half and surged powerfully upfield, checking once to cut the ball on to his right foot before letting fly with an 18 yard shot that left Ingham beaten.

The home side were awarded a dubious penalty when the referee's assistant ruled that Luke Jones had handled Chambers' 62nd minute cross.

It was Chambers who strode forward only to see his effort superbly parried away by the keeper.

The Minstermen were given hope three minutes later with David McGurk credited with a goal that appeared to deflect off Tom Sharpe.

Both sides had chances but Harriers held firm, taking their unbeaten league run to six games moving level on points with the play off contenders.

## Club karate contest helps to raise £2,700



Members of Young Gloves karate club with a cheque for £2,700 for the Starlight Children's Foundation charity

YOUNG GLOVES karate club held a competition at King Charles School in Kidderminster which helped raise £2,700 for the Starlight Children's Foundation charity.

Head instructor Justin Thomas confirmed that the total amount raised exceeded what the club

raised for Children in Need last year by £300.

"This is a massive achievement and such a valuable thing for children from as young as five to get involved and be part of," he said.

"I'm so pleased and proud that all of our young students come

together like this once a year support such a worthy cause.

"I'd like to express my gratitude to all our supporters in making this year's event go so smoothly, either on the day or by raising the profile of the competition to gain interest from students and parents."

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## Win and a defeat for Hackett's Stour side

THE GLASSBOYS completed an Evo-stik League Southern Premier Division double over Cirencester but they were made to work hard for their 2-1 win.

In the second minute, Aaron Drake rolled a free-kick to Sean Geddes whose 20-yard drive was saved by Town keeper Kevin Sawyer.

A minute later, at the other end, a right-wing flag-kick from James Mortimer-Jones was fumbled by Lewis Solly before the ball was scrambled to safety.

The home side threatened again when Linden Dovey played the ball forward to John Griffin but his volley dropped wide.

Stourbridge had a let-off when Mitchell Bryant got in behind the home defence and rolled a shot past Solly and wide of the far post.

The Glassboys opened the scoring in the 22nd minute. A long kick forward from Solly caught out the Cirencester defence and Ryan Rowe clinically finished from close range.

The second half was only two minutes old when Ben Reardon levelled for Cirencester with a shot that dipped beyond the reach of Solly.

The home side had to dig deep in Saturday's game and, although their play lacked the fluency of the first period, they did have chances. With 10 minutes left Stourbridge grabbed the winner.

Griffin capitalised on a slip by Jamie Dunn to gain possession and he calmly rounded Sawyer before slotting the ball home.

But the Glassboys followed up this win with a 2-0 loss at Hitchin on Monday night.

Gary Hackett's men have a short Boxing Day trip to Redditch United before they return to the War Memorial Ground to face Swindon Supermarine on December 31.

## Glover fight is upgraded

TIPTON'S Lee Glover has seen his contest with former Prizefighter rival Ian Bailey upgraded to a title fight.

Glover was due to face Bailey in a six-rounder on Tuesday at the Holiday Inn in Birmingham.

But now the 'Tipton Slasher' will take on Bailey in a 10-round fight at Walsall Town Hall on February 25.

# Carolians hold their nerve to take vital win

A BONUS point 27-10 win over Pershore moved Kidderminster Carolians 10 points clear of their local rivals and also above Upton on Severn.

Not surprisingly in view of their lowly National Two West (South) positions, both sides started nervously with KCs failing to find touch with two early penalties and Pershore kicking the ball dead with their first effort, but Kidder soon showed they were up for the contest.

A break by flyhalf Chris Pinner from a lineup and a good supporting run by centre Nick Martin won a penalty, unfortunately missed, and a kick to the corner saw the home side drive over from the throw in only

to be held up over the line. Prop Matt Rigby was then stopped just short but KCs were attacking in waves.

Another close range lineup caused Pershore problems but they were able to relieve the pressure when awarded a penalty.

They appeared to have weathered the storm until with 25 minutes played, fullback Andy McLellan led a KC breakout from their own line up the right touchline before slipping a pass to No 14 Will Varley.

The winger raced away for a try close to the posts which Pinner converted for a 7-0 lead.

The hosts were pegged back when they were penalised at a ruck just 15 metres from

their line and the visitors' No 10 knocked over the penalty. But Kidder stormed back and were again denied from a lineup drive.

Two minutes before the interval a Pershore kick out of defence was run back at them by KCs and with backs and forwards combining well, Rigby broke through despairing tackles to run in from 20 metres.

With the last kick of the half Pershore missed a presentable penalty opportunity.

The next score was going to be important and five minutes into the second period McLellan found a good touch with a penalty from hand to set up yet another attacking lineup and the drive was finished off by Layton Wilkinson. Pinner was becoming

increasingly influential and his break freed Martin whose well-taken try, improved by Pinner, extended KC's lead to 24-3 and secured a vital bonus point. Kidder were now well on top and a Pinner penalty midway through the half from almost the 10 metre line made the game safe.

The hosts wobbled when second row Jack Tunstall went off injured and Pershore pounded their line with a succession of tap penalties before eventually moving the ball wide to create space for a converted try which gave them a glimmer of hope but KC's held firm.

The next League fixture is at home to second-placed Newbould on January 7.

## Hurrell the star against old club

THE curse of the former player struck as a storming display from giant Stourbridge Rugby Club lock forward Robbie Hurrell led them to their first league win over Coventry.

Hurrell dominated the lineup and put in an excellent shift around the field as the Saxons built on a slender half time advantage with a convincing second-half display to win 20-12.

The Saxons outscored the visitors by three tries to two to claim a third win in four games and four vital National League One points that boost their hopes of avoiding the drop.

Coventry controlled the early stages of the game but the hosts' defensive organisation was more than a match for everything thrown at them.

Stourbridge turned defence into attack on the half hour mark, with a superbly constructed try.

Hurrell burst clear from a lineup, before secure handling allowed Matt Williams to put top scorer Nathan Bressington in the corner for his 10th touchdown of the campaign.

Stourbridge director of rugby Neil Mitchell, introduced two fresh props at half time.

This paid immediate dividends as hooker Liam Wordley emerged from the bottom a driving maul with his eighth try of the season.

Coventry needed a speedy response and they got it when centre Jack Green stepped 30 metres through a static home defence to touch down a try, which Mark O'Connor upgraded.

The hosts extended their advantage 15 minutes from time when a slick move released Ben Barkley and the powerful centre sent replacement flanker James Rodley under the posts for a converted score.

Coventry once again hit back immediately with the best try of the day.

After their driving lineup was again well held, the visitors patiently kept possession through multiple phases, before scrum-half Lewis Barker forced his way over from close range.

Hearn eased home nerves with a well-struck, angled 30 metre penalty eight minutes from time to send a bumper crowd home happy.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, December 22, 2011.

# JONES SET FOR FIRST CLASH WITH OLD CLUB

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers defender Luke Jones prepares to face former club Forest Green for the first time on Boxing Day, insisting he was right to make a summer switch.

Jones was captain and played all but one league game at the New Lawn last season but turned down a new contract to join Harriers for a second spell, having spent 2008-09 at Aggborough.

The 24-year-old had helped Forest Green to safety in the Blue Square Premier in his one campaign on their books, having joined Mansfield for a season after leaving Harriers in 2009.

Now Jones comes across his old club as an ex-Green player for the first time in a festive double-header, Harriers the hosts on Boxing Day before the return game away on New Year's Day.

And the centre-half believes that, with only goal difference separating Harriers from the play-off places and Forest Green in ninth, his decision to switch sides was the right one.

### Fighting

He said: "Yes, I do think so. Looking back, we did struggle there last year.

"Although I was skipper and I do feel I had a good season on a personal level, it was difficult over the course of a long season when we were down there struggling and fighting to stay up.

"I made the decision to move back here as I saw it as a natural progression of sorts - Kidderminster just missed out on the play-offs last season and it's a place I know well."

While Jones prepares to take his place at the back on Boxing Day, captain Mike Williams faces a fifth

### By Craig Birch

straight game as an unused substitute after losing his place at left-back to Mickey Demetriou.

Williams has been fit for the last four games after nearly two months out with a hip injury but stand-in Demetriou has kept his spot.

The skipper last played in the match where he was crocked, the home defeat to Luton on October 8.

With Harriers on an eight-match unbeaten run, manager Steve Burr is keen to promote the idea that performances keep places, going into Christmas and the New Year.

The Harriers boss has also warned that Demetriou will "take some shifting".

Burr said: "He has arguably the hardest task of all the squad in keeping Mike Williams out of the team, but that is a testament to how well he is playing."

"Mike was unfortunate to pick up an injury but, in all honesty, Mickey is going to take some shifting with the way he is performing."

"With Mike now waiting for his chance, he knows he will have to keep on working hard to keep his place."

## 'Awesome' cup achievement of under-10s



The lads of Stourbridge under-10s celebrating getting into the semi-finals of the Prima Tiger Cup at Leicester

LEAD coach Richard Walker praised Stourbridge under-10s for an "awesome achievement" after their victory over West Norfolk in rugby's Prima Tiger Cup quarter-finals at Welford Road.

Stourbridge Walker booked a semi-final return to the home of Leicester Tigers in January with a hard-fought 3-1 win over their opponents from Kings Lynn in Norfolk on Saturday.

The players, coaches and support-

ers then watched the Tigers' 23-19 win over French giants Clermont Auvergne in Europe's Heineken Cup.

"It's an awesome achievement from a great group of lads," said Walker. "It is the first time that our club has entered the Prima Tiger Cup."

"To play at Welford Road, the boys were really excited. They had an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of great players and they enjoyed the occasion massively." Stourbridge will

be joined in the semis by Derbyshire side Melbourne, Bury St Edmunds, and cup holders Oakham.

They will be played at Welford Road on the weekend of January 21, before Tigers take on Aironi Rugby in the Heineken Cup.

The Prima Tiger Cup is supported by Loughborough-based Prima Solutions. It is open to under-10s teams nationally, and more than 50 clubs entered this year.

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Cousins Winter Sale starts on Boxing Day at 9am. Be early to take advantage of **EXTRA DISCOUNTS OFF ALL SALE PRICES** throughout the stores, plus many one-off deals and limited stock availability. **Be early for the best buys, limited stocks!**



From left to right:  
Edward, Matt, John and Thomas Shotton

Following on from the success of their Stock Clearance Event in November, the directors of Cousins are continuing their strategy of buying-up much of their suppliers' surplus stock, allowing them to offer unprecedented low sale prices, with massive savings of up to 70% right across their fantastic range of brand name furniture, carpets, beds and homewares.

## Unprecedented Opportunity

Commenting on the company's strategy, Managing Director, John Shotton said: "As a result of our

financial strength and stability we have been able to bulk purchase a lot of our suppliers frustrated stock that has become surplus due to the High Street sales slump."

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As one of the UK's leading and most established family-owned furniture retailers, they are built on very solid financial foundations – owning the freehold to all 5 of their expansive sites. Not only does this give their customers the additional peace of mind and confidence when buying from them but it also gives them enormous purchasing power.

## Massive reductions

As well as purchasing vast quantities of surplus stock, Cousins have also used this opportunity to negotiate lower ongoing buying prices from their suppliers whether for special one-off customer orders or forward ordered bulk stock deals. Either way this translates into unprecedented extra discounts off all sale prices.

## Trusted Brands

Every item throughout the stores has been further reduced with an extra discount off their sale price, including all brand names and the many new collections that have just arrived for 2012.

As you'd expect Cousins' Winter Sale is showcasing many new styles and ideas from the world's leading designers. These collections exude the highest levels of innovation, inspiration and craftsmanship.

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Robert Shotton



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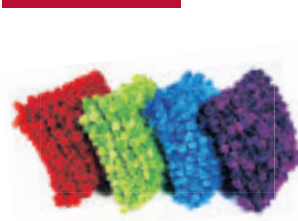
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